



The Halyard

We can not control the wind but we can adjust the sails

A weekly newsletter for Virginia's Library Media Specialists
February 6, 2004

View from the Crow's Nest

If you are a member of the AASL Forum list serve I am sure that you have been reading with interest the postings over the last few weeks concerning leadership at the state level, the NEA "Joy of Reading" article and information about how the government does its calculations for funding NCLB projects. The postings are coming from all segments of the library community. The thread that ties all of these together is the continued need for communicating to those in positions to implement change must be educated in the role of libraries and librarians in a well-educated society. Today's postings brings an article that appeared in the New York Times,

<http://www.nytimes.com/2004/02/05/technology/circuits/05libr.html>.

One of the quotes really captured my thoughts:

"When Google doesn't work, most people don't have a plan B," said Joe Janes, an associate professor in the Information School at the University of Washington in Seattle, who is teaching a course on Google this quarter. "Librarians have lots of plan B's. We know when to go to a book, when to call someone, even when to go to Google."



I really like that statement. We need to teach our patrons to have a research plan. The need for teaching information literacy and retrieval skills has never been greater that it is right now.

How are you teaching your patrons? Do they have an attack plan? Do they have a battleground advisor? Do they have a captain teaching them to sailing their ship (You!) or are they floating aimlessly, going from port to port hoping not to get swamped in the process?

Budget Cuts



Pennsylvania's legislature is cutting the state aid to public libraries from \$75 million to \$47 million. In response, the libraries have an ad campaign to raise public awareness, "Feel like growling? Bear With us" which features a large unhappy faced bear. The ad asks that patron ask how library staffers how the community can become involved in supporting public library services. For more information, read the article in *School Library Journal*, February 2004, on page 25.

Are we making a difference? Ask the students?

A recent study in Ohio reports that 99.4 percent of students in grades 3-12 believe that school libraries and their services help them become better learners. Unlike studies done by others in the field, this research focused on **student** evaluation of the media center.

What do your students say about their school library program? Maybe we should ask them to tell others and us. (*Student Learning Through Ohio School Libraries* by Ross Todd and Carol Kuhltau, Rutgers University)



With Tony Hawk on the ramp, HERSHEY®'S Milk and MilkShakes and America's libraries have issued a national call to action for America's teens. And what's the challenge? For you to check-out one of one of your favorite books - those found on the shelves of libraries - and submit an entry about how the book is meaningful to you. You may work alone or in teams of up to four and are encouraged to be creative in your submissions. There are two categories in which you can submit an entry - a written essay or a creative entry including a poem, painting or video - it's entirely up to you. All you need to do is print and fill out your contact information on the [sponsor and contestant form](#) and take it to your librarian to sign once you have read a book from your local public or school library and created the entry.

Mail your entry to Get on Board and Read @ your library, PO Box 118070, Chicago, IL 60611. See [official rules](#) for more details.

(<http://www.hersheysmilk.com/getonboard/getonboard/index.asp>)

Sad News

From an article in *American Libraries*, February, 2004

In a recent censorship challenge, a concerned citizen made the following comment:

"Libraries are not safe places, because there are ideas to be found there"